



ACTIVITIES REPORT 2017/2018



The road to the love of Judaism, the road to faithfulness and devotion to the religion and the road to the nation leads through an intellectual exploration of the meaning of Judaism and through discovering our magnificent past and written treasures.

Rabbi Prof. Dr Moses Schorr

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www.facebook.com/Fundacja-im-prof-Mojżesza-Schorra-118849334299/

Thanks to the extensive support of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, to which the Polish Jewish community is highly indebted, we established our foundation in 2003.

COUNCIL

dr Amir Schorr

Joe Smoczyński

Today we are the largest institution in Poland dedicated to teaching modern Hebrew language. In the 15 years of our existence, more than 2,700 people enjoyed studying Hebrew with us, people of different religions and professions: students, journalists, public officials, writers, priests, lawyers and scientists. Such a diverse community also gives an opportunity to establish inter-cultural dialogue. To facilitate teaching, we have published a set of five books for students and Hebrew alphabet colouring book.

BOARD

dr Grażyna Pawlak -
President of the Board

prof. Sergiusz Kowalski -
Vice-President of the Board

prof. Elżbieta Mazur –
Member of the Board

We organise outdoor exhibitions and publish books. Projects we have completed include: „Prof. Moses Schorr – the last rabbi of the Great Synagogue”, “Jewish sport in Warsaw before World War II”, “Gemilut Hasadim – Jews, Charity, Warsaw”, “Twarda – the history of one street in Warsaw”, “Res Sacra Miser – the person in misery is sacred” - history of the Warsaw Charity Society” and permanent exhibition “the History of Jeshivas Chachmei Lublin” in Lublin. All of our exhibitions are available without fee to all interested institutions, who may present them in other Polish cities. We usually publish books to accompany exhibitions which you can buy in the Foundation.

Our logo is an open book inscribed on David’s Shield. The book’s pages are being filled with knowledge of Jewish values which are being passed on between generations. We address our programmes at those who wish to bring back the memory of their ancestors, those who seek to understand their Jewish roots, as well as those who wish to explore the culture which has offered so much to civilization.

SPONSORZY I PARTNERZY NASZYCH PROJEKTÓW 2017/2018:



FUNDACJA RONALDA S. LAUDERA



STOWARZYSZENIE
ŻYDOWSKI INSTYTUT
HISTORYCZNY W POLSCE



Dofinansowano ze środków
Narodowego Centrum Kultury
w ramach programu
„Kultura – Interwencje 2017”



Gmina Wyznaniowa
Żydowska w Warszawie
קהילה יהודית בוורשה



Ministerstwo
Spraw Wewnętrznych
i Administracji



האקדמית נתניה



OŚWIECENIE I ELEKTROTECHNIKA

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OŚRODEK
BRAMA
GRODZKA



Foundation employees extending thanks to Poland’s chief rabbi, Michael Schudrich, for his support in many of our projects.

The world's only museum of the history of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin is open to visitors now!

The project is initiated by the Jewish Community of Warsaw which had asked our Foundation to prepare an exhibition in the building that once housed the Yeshiva in Lublin. It was a great honour for us. Only half a year after launching the project, we opened the exhibition on Dec.7.

The Yeshiva had been established by rabbi Meir Shapira, the initiator of Daf Yomi. The main idea of Daf Yomi is that every Jew who follows mitzvot of the Torah should study one page of the Talmud every day, according to a schedule allowing everyone to study the same page on the same day during a 7.5-year-long cycle.

This programme – rabbi Shapira wrote – creates a common language for our nation. When two Jews from different cities, or even countries, meet, the knowledge based on the fact that they are studying the same fragment of the Gemarah can form a deep friendship between them. The conclusion of the study is celebrated around the world by hundreds of thousands of Jews.

The necessary archival research was conducted by the Foundation and its students, on a volunteer basis. Its results exceeded our expectations. We were able to obtain photographs which had never been published before, as well as documents, newspaper clippings. We had to divide the project into two phases. The first phase was funded by the National Centre for Culture. We were also supported by the Jewish Community of Warsaw, the Ilan Hotel, the Culture Office of the Lublin city hall as well as the company ELMAX. The president of the city of Lublin, Krzysztof Żuk, and Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich assumed honorary patronage of the event.

The opening was attended by numerous guests from Israel, including a grandson of Meir Shapira's brother, as well as Moshe Pinchuk and Rachel Yud who cooperated with our Foundation. The exhibition's partners included Ganzach Kiddush Hashem – an Israeli archive, Netanya Academic College, the Lublin culture centre "Ośrodek Brama Grodzka Teatr NN" and the Lublin Museum. A catalogue of the exhibition has been published. Deputy Mayor of Lublin Artur Szymczyk presented the Israeli partners of the exhibition with commemorative medals in appreciation of their efforts to promote Jewish culture and tradition and develop the understanding of history among the citizens of Lublin. Visitors could learn about the legacy of Meir Shapira, the history of the Yeshiva and its curriculum as well as the daily life of its students.

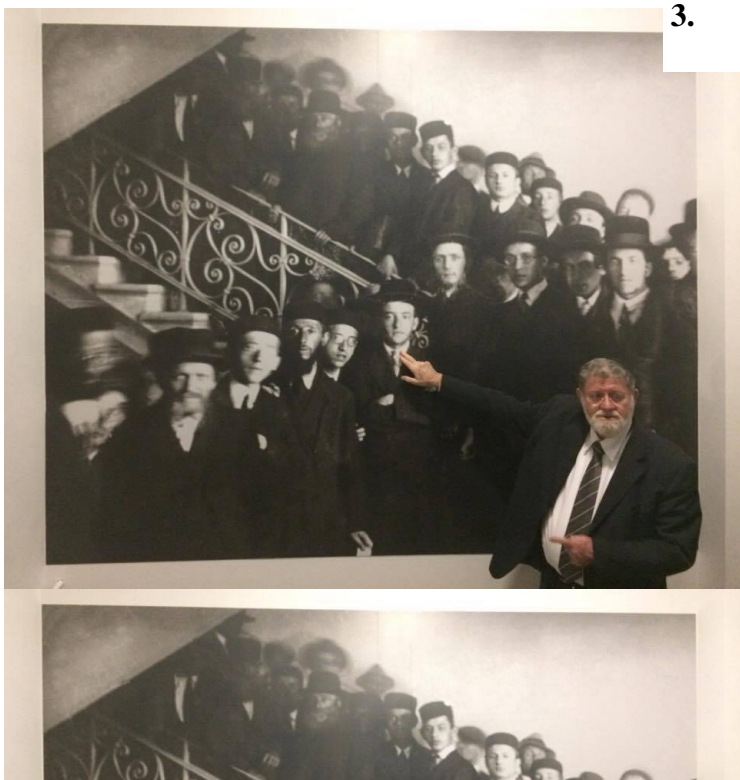
During the second phase, we plan to present the illustrious ancestors of rabbi Meir Shapira, starting with rabbi Pinchas of Koretz, a student and friend of Ba'al Shem Tov. The library room will be equipped with materials about Jewish traditions.



1. Opening of the multimedia exhibition „History of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin”(07.12.2017).



2. One of the exhibition rooms, with a Daf Yomi calendar visible on the wall.



4. Among the guests, Sławomir Różański from the Jewish Historical Institute Association in Warsaw.



5. Speech by Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich during exhibition opening.



6. Clergy among guests at the opening.



7. Meir Shapira and Rabbi dr Moshe Pinchuk standing in front of a portrait of Meir Shapira.



8. Head of the foundation, dr Grazyna Pawlak, presenting the exhibition.



9. Meir Shapira, Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich and Deputy Mayor of Lublin Artur Szymczyk hanging up a portrait of Meir Shapira, donated by Nava Semel, Israeli writer, granddaughter of a sister of the Yeshiva founder.



10. Deputy Mayor of Lublin Artur Szymczyk presenting a commemorative medal to Meir Shapira.



11. Exhibition hall with photographs from the family archive of Meir Shapira.



12. Guest speeches during opening ceremony. From the left: Lesław Piszewski, head of the Association of Jewish Communities of Poland, Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich, Meir Shapira, grandson of the Yeshiva founder's brother, Rabbi dr Moshe Pinchuk and dr Grazyna Pawlak, head of the Foundation.

Our exhibition in the media

Both foreign and domestic press covered the opening of the museum of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin extensively:

<http://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/have-your-say/new-life-new-exhibit-at-lublin-yeshiva/>



<https://www.dziennikwschodni.pl/magazyn/atmosfera-przestrzen-i-pamiec-czyli-jak-powstawalo-muzeum-historii-jesziwy-medrcow-lublina,n.1000210033.html>

<http://lublin.wyborcza.pl/lublin/7,48724,22764495,przy-lubartowskiej-mamy-muzeum-historii-jesziwy-medrcow-lublina.html>

<https://sztetl.org.pl/pl/miejscowosci/1/264-lublin/120-aktualnosci/139118-lublin-muzeum-historii-jesziwy-medrcow-lublina>

<http://www.kurierlubelski.pl/kultura/a/studenci-jesziwy-patrza-na-nas-z-czarnobialych-fotografii-zdjecia-wideo,12742640/>

<https://polska-izrael.edu.pl/aktualnosci/139-nowe-muzeum-historii-jesziwy-medrcow-lublina-już-otwarte>

<http://lajf.info/lublin-ma-nowe-muzeum/>

Head of the foundation board, Grażyna Pawlak, also gave an interview to a Lublin radio station:

<http://lublin.eska.pl/a-poznaj-miasto/atmosfera-przestrzen-i-pamiec-czyli-jak-powstawalo-muzeum-historii-jesziwy-medrcow-lublina-f20f82a4/631335>

Rabbi Moshe Pinchuk presented the project to a radio station from Australia:

<https://omny.fm/shows/ten-k-radius/the-baum-interwies-rabbi-dr-pinchuk>

Television broadcasters also took an interest in the subject:

<https://lublin.tvp.pl/35120768/wystawa-unikatowych-fotografii-i-dokumentow-w-jesziwie-chachmei>

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

During the course of last year, we conducted a series of free meetings, workshops and lectures, attended by both adults and children. We are open for everyone to come in, both people who are aware of their Jewish roots, those who are just discovering them, as well as those who want to explore the world which has offered our civilization so much. Our aim is to present Jewish history and traditions while exploring the guiding values of Judaism. We invite rabbis from Poland and Israel, renown professors, some of whom give lectures via Skype.

Cyclical meetings:

1. “Heroes of the Bible and Greek mythology” – lectures conducted in Hebrew, translated into Polish. Lecturer: Rabbi dr Moshe Pinchuk, head of the Jewish Heritage Center in the Netanya Academic College. He specializes in research into the Jerusalem Talmud. Thanking the rabbi for his inspiring cooperation.
2. “Jewish life in the 20th century in cinema”. Lecturer: Daniel Grinberg. Bialystok University. Professor Grinberg focuses on 19th century history, the anarchist movement, as well as historical sociology, the history of ideas and the emancipation of European Jewry.
3. “The development and traditions of Jewish holidays”. Lecturers: Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich and rabbi Moshe Bloom.
4. Lectures on the history of the Hebrew language. Lecturer: Magdalena Sommer, translator and teacher of the Hebrew language in our foundation.



13.



14.

13. Purim art workshop.

14. Lecture by Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich on the Tu BiShvat holiday.



15.

15. Magdalena Sommer translates during a Chanuka meeting with Rabbi dr Moshe Pinchuk.

16. Participants of a lecture by rabbi Moshe Pinchuk.

17. Information about a lecture by professor Daniel Grinberg.



17.



zaprasza na comiesięczne zajęcia konwersatoryjne:

„Losy żydowskie w XX wieku przez pryzmat kinematografii”

Temat kwietniowego spotkania: **„Świat żydowski w polskim kinie międzywojennym”**

3 kwietnia 2017 (poniedziałek), o godz. 18:30

miejsce: siedziba Fundacji im. prof. M. Schorra, ul. Twarda 6, Warszawa

Spotkania koncentrować się będą na wybranych zagadnieniach związanych ze specyfiką kinematografii Żydów i filmowym obrazem Żydów.

Punktem odniesienia obok samych dzieł będzie dla nas modernistyczna jidyszowa kultura żydowska tej zamkniętej już epoki, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem naszej części Europy.

Ocalale, nieliczne fragmenty oryginalnych dzieł filmowych adresowanych do różnych widowni konfrontować będziemy z impresjami widzów przedwojennych i zapisami krytyków filmowych.



Zajęcia poprowadzi prof. Daniel Grinberg - zajmuje się historią powszechną XIX wieku i ruchami anarchistycznymi, a także socjologią historyczną, historią idei oraz emancypacją Żydów europejskich.



16.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Our group and individual classes attracted more than 80 students each semester, including students, journalists and lawyers. Descendants of Righteous Among Nations are invited to learn Hebrew for free, as an expression of our gratitude for their families' heroism.

Our modern Hebrew language teachers include: Magdalena Sommer, Łukasz Kaluźny, Agata Grzybowska and Dawid Wojciechowski. We also conducted a biblical Hebrew course in the first half of the year.

In order to promote our school we organised free trial lessons. We also participated in events organized by the city of Warsaw, including the Museum Night and the Singer Festival. Everyone could participate in free Hebrew lessons and could learn to write their name in Hebrew letters.

In 2017 we prepared a colouring book for children to be used to teach the Hebrew alphabet. The project was co-financed by the Jewish Historical Institute Association. The book was illustrated by Joanna Jaszuńska-Kobielska and conceptualised by Magdalena Sommer.



18.



19.

18. Each year, course participants are invited to taste cookies – Hebrew letters and hamsas – baked by dr Grażyna Pawlak, the head of the Foundation's board.

19. A Hebrew workshop for children.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Each year we are open to working together with other institutions and we participate in various joint projects. We took part, among others, in the Oriental Holiday Fair, organized by the board of graduate students of the Oriental Studies Department of the Warsaw University. Thanks to a suggestion by one of our students – Maria Świercz – we ran a workshop during the Singer Festival during which children could paint Hebrew letters made of salt dough.

We have signed cooperation agreements with Israeli institutions: the Netanya Academic College and the Ganzach Kiddush Hashem archive. Our goal is to exchange information and materials about the history of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin and to organized lectures via Skype.

We have welcomed members of the Jewish Community of Warsaw and the Children of the Holocaust, as well as the Association of Jewish Combatants and Victims of World War II.

INTERNET

We use our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Fundacja-im-prof-Mojżesza-Schorra-118849334299/) to post news about courses, lectures and workshops, as well as interesting information about the Hebrew language, Israel, Jewish history and traditions. We also use Facebook as a medium to contact Hebrew teachers and as a forum to exchange information and expectations about our course offering. The number of followers of our page is constantly rising.

On YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTpkclR29hcSUfqewfgoLBw> -- we have posted four documentary films we have produced.

Unfortunately, the Foundation's webpage hasn't been updated regularly, largely because of technical difficulties and staffing problems. We hope to modernize it.



20.



21.

20. The Foundation's Facebook page.

21. Our Foundation's channel on YouTube.

THE INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2018:

We have published a colouring book, which serves as a Hebrew language teaching tool. The printing was financed by the KGHM Polska Miedź Foundation.

This beautiful book can be bought at our Foundation!



22. The cover of our Hebrew alphabet colouring book



23. A page from the colouring book.

We have started works on an overhaul of our internet page, which will include additional educational materials. We hope the page can become an effective tool for learning Hebrew and the Jewish culture. We plan to feature presentations of our exhibitions, a virtual museum of the history of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin and an app for learning Hebrew to be downloaded from the page.

We are pleased to say that the Ministry of Interior has agreed to co-finance the modernisation of the web page.

WHAT ELSE ARE WE PLANNING TO ACHIEVE IN THE 2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR?

1. Finalise the museum of the History of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin.
2. Produce a documentary film about the museum of the History of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin.
3. Launch the following lecture series:
 - “Cultural life in 19th century Warsaw.”
 - “The Five Books of Moses” – in Hebrew, with Polish translation.
 - “Explaining the philosophy of Maimonides” – in Hebrew, with Polish translation
 - “Patriotism among Poles and Jews”.
 - “Jewish traditions of political activism in Poland”.
 - “The history of Chassidism”.

4. Intensify promotion activities. We hope to increase the scope of our cooperation with current partners from Israel and to develop contacts with new institutions in Poland and abroad. To help with this, we are preparing an informational package covering the last 15 years of our activities.



4. In order to increase our sales, we plan to popularize our publications through digitalization and electronic sales.
5. To broaden our Hebrew teaching programme with the cooperation with the Israeli Education Ministry.
6. To prepare the printing of the second colouring book, one of our Hebrew teaching aids.
7. Launch preparations for a Polish-Israeli language summer camp.

Prepared by:

dr Grażyna Pawlak – Head of Foundation Board

Magdalena Sommer – Hebrew teacher

Alicja Banna – programming coordinator

*Photographs nr 2, 3, 17-23, as well photographs without numbers, included in the raport are part of the Foundation's own archive. Photographs nr 1 and 4-12 from the opening of the Museum of the History of Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin (with an Agencja Gazeta watermark) were taken by Krzysztof Mazur. Photographs nr 13-16 were taken by Sławomir Haliński.